

Committee; and the Make It Moorestown Celebration Committee. In addition, John was an active member of the Moorestown Rotary Club and the Knights of Columbus Council 1082.

Similarly impressive, Kathy served as Vice President, Planning Board Alternate, and a member of the Appearance Committee for the Moorestown School Board for more than a decade. Kathy was also a Board Member and Secretary of the Moorestown Business Association from 2006 to 2009. Her most recent community work involves her contributions to Percheron Park and her involvement on the Moorestown Tree Planting and Preservation Committee.

For almost five decades, whether they were together or apart, John and Kathy they have been integral participants in Moorestown's volunteer community and have been described as an inspiration to everyone around them. I am proud to congratulate them both for winning this award and thank them for their continued service to our community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR.
JOHNNIE ANDERSON JONES, SR.,
ESQ.

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, today, I want to recognize the extraordinary life of Dr. Johnnie Anderson Jones, Sr., Esq. of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, a Civil Rights Lawyer, and World War II Veteran, at the tender age of 102 on April 23, 2022.

Dr. Jones was born November 30, 1919, in Laurel Hill, Louisiana and raised on Rosemound Plantation by his parents, who farmed 73 acres of land but insisted that their son get an education. He attended a two-room schoolhouse and became interested in the law, he said, when a teacher gave him a book by Charles Evans Hughes, then the Chief Justice of the United States.

"While we were out in the fields picking cotton, I would be thinking about what I read in that book," Mr. Jones told the Advocate of Baton Rouge. "I couldn't stand the sight of people picking cotton . . . Everything it represented."

Mr. Jones enrolled at Southern University and A&M College in Baton Rouge, planning to major in industrial education. He was 24 years old, a future civil rights lawyer not yet graduated from college, when he landed on the beaches of Normandy in the D-Day invasion of 1944. He was tasked with unloading equipment during the Normandy invasion.

He became the Army's first African-American warrant officer. He was assigned to a unit responsible for unloading equipment and supplies onto Normandy.

He nearly died before his ship reached the shore, when the explosion of a mine sent him flying "sky high into the air," he recalled, and onto an upper deck. He again almost died when he came under German sniper fire on Omaha Beach.

When Mr. Jones returned home to Louisiana, he was greeted not with a hero's welcome, but rather with all the indignities of segregation in the Jim Crow South.

Riding a bus with fellow U.S. servicemen, Mr. Jones, who was African

American, was forced to sit in the back of the coach. He was driving to New Orleans to have shrapnel removed from his neck when a White police officer, entirely unprovoked, pulled him over and began assaulting him.

"He knocked me down and started kicking me," he said. "Things weren't right. 'Separate but equal' was unconstitutional, and I wanted to fight it and make it better."

Mr. Jones did so by enrolling in law school and becoming a lawyer in the early years of the civil rights movement. Mr. Jones was credited with fighting legal battles on multiple fronts of the movement for racial equality.

He worked with voter leagues and with civil rights organizations; including the NAACP and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). He assisted demonstrators who participated in lunch-counter sit-ins. During that time, his car was bombed on two separate occasions.

After the 1954 Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which outlawed segregation in public schools, he helped accompany about 30 Black children to a White elementary school in Baton Rouge, historian Adam Fairclough wrote in the volume "Race and Democracy: The Civil Rights Struggle in Louisiana, 1915–1972."

But Mr. Jones played perhaps his most significant role in the 1953 Baton Rouge bus boycott, a long-overlooked event that helped inspire the landmark boycott two years later in Montgomery, Ala., prompted by the arrest of Rosa Parks. Mr. Jones was only two weeks out of law school in June 1953 when the Rev. T.J. Jemison, a founding member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, invited him to represent the organizers of the effort in Baton Rouge.

"I told him, 'That's an awfully big suit to fill,'" Mr. Jones recalled to a reporter in 2015. "But he said, 'Nonsense, Brother Jones, you can do it.'"

The Baton Rouge demonstration was touched off when Martha White, an African-American housekeeper, ignited a controversy by taking a seat in a section of a public bus reserved for White riders. During the eight-day boycott that followed, activists organized carpools that allowed participants to travel to and from work without riding city buses. Eighty percent of the city's bus ridership at the time was African American. The boycott ended with the partial desegregation of city buses, with the front two rows of seats reserved for White people and the last two rows for Black people. While some protesters had hoped for a more dramatic outcome, historians today describe the Baton Rouge boycott as a prototype of others to come.

"Almost unnoticed at the time," the Baton Rouge protest "was a direct precursor of the Montgomery bus boycott," Fairclough wrote, "and an event of major significance in the evolution of the civil rights movement."

Upon his return to the United States, he resumed his studies and changed his major to psychology, receiving a bachelor's degree in 1949. He received a law degree, also from Southern University, in 1953.

Mr. Jones served briefly in the Louisiana House of Representatives in the 1970s. He continued practicing law into his 90s.

Mr. Jones was predeceased by his four children, Johnnie A. Jones Jr., Adal Jones, Adair Jones and Ann Jones. Survivors include many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

During his service in World War II, Mr. Jones sustained shrapnel wounds that he would bear for the rest of his life.

"The doctor told me it would really hurt in 75 years, but I wouldn't have to worry about that," he bravely discussed. "I fooled him. It hurts, and I'm still picking it out of my head and arm. A piece came out just above my left eye yesterday."

He waited nearly eight decades for his service to be recognized with a Purple Heart, receiving the award only last year. The long delay was symbolic of what he saw as the slow move toward justice in the civil rights movement.

His heroism will be forever marked in our lives. I am proud to say the life he lived paved the way for me to enjoy the accomplishments I have endured following his footsteps. I will continue to work for the citizens of Louisiana, as Dr. Jones did, always striving to make life better in our community.

HONORING DAVID MCWILLIAM
RASER

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2022

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor David McWilliam Raser, a hardworking and dedicated staff member of the House Appropriations Committee, who suddenly passed away on February 5th of this year.

Son of David and Denise Raser, Dave was born in Long Island, New York on May 3, 1997. Just a few years later, the Rasers added another member to the family, Emily, who would become Dave's best friend. In the early 2000s, the family headed for warmer weather, moving from New York to Naples, Florida.

Dave grew to become an accomplished young man in his academic, athletic, and service endeavors. He spent much of his time outdoors, whether fishing, hiking, or playing team sports. In fact, Dave and his rugby team—the Naples Bears—went on to win State in 2014. He continued his pursuit of fitness into his professional life, running a marathon and surpassing his goal of running 1,000 miles in 2021.

In high school, he joined the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, where he rose to the rank of Battalion Commander. Because of his leadership and achievements, Congressman MARIO DIAZ-BALART nominated Dave to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

As fate would have it, Dave instead attended Louisiana State University, where he would receive a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, specializing in American government and politics. Before graduating, Dave served as a summer intern for Congressman Thomas Rooney, where he learned the legislative process firsthand, and shortly after receiving his diploma in 2019, Dave moved to Washington, D.C. with hopes of obtaining a full-time position in Congress.

Dave joined the House Appropriations Committee as an intern in 2019 and did such great work that he officially joined my committee staff in 2020. In his role, he served as the ultimate utility player, always willing and eager to assist when needed, regardless of the task at hand. Whether it was preparing materials for hearings and briefings or assisting staff with